SHORE LINE

RESEARCH CENTER FOR DELMARVA HISTORY AND CULTURE

NEWSLETTER

VOL. III NO. I

WWII VETERANS REMEMBERED

THE RESEARCH CENTER, ALONG WITH THE WESTSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY, WILL BE SPONSORING A THREE-PART COMMEMORATION TO THE VETERANS OF WWII FROM THE SURROUNDING WICOMICO COUNTY AREA. FIRST, THE CENTER WILL CONDUCT ORAL INTERVIEWS WITH EACH VETERAN FROM THE WICOMICO COUNTY AREA. THE TAPED INTERVIEWS WOULD BE DONATED TO THE RESEARCH CENTER WHERE THEY WOULD BE PERMANENTLY KEPT AND MADE AVAILABLE FOR RESEARCH BY STUDENTS AND OTHER SCHOLARS. SECOND, TWO OR THREE PUBLIC PROGRAMS OF PANELS OR EXHIBITS OF SOME VETERANS WOULD BE OFFERED, DISCUSSING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF THEIR INVOLVEMENTS IN THE WAR. THIRD, A COMMEMORATIVE BOOK WOULD BE PUBLISHED; THE BOOK WOULD INCLUDE THE NAMES, PICTURES, INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR, HONORS AND AWARDS, AND COMMENTS BY EACH VETERAN. THE BOOK WOULD INCLUDE THE NAMES AND INFORMATION ON THOSE VETERANS WHO WERE KILLED IN ACTION OR HAVE DIED.

MR. DAVID GRIER AND MRS. SYLVIA BRADLEY HAVE BEEN DEDICATED TO SEEING THIS PROJECT GET OFF THE GROUND AND THE COMMUNITY SUPPORT INCREASES DAY BY DAY. IF YOU WOULD BE INTERESTED IN ASSISTING ON ANY LEVEL WITH THIS COMMEMORATIVE PROJECT PLEASE CONTACT THE CENTER AT 543-6312. THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

CENTER SAYS GOODBYE TO STAFF

AT THE CLOSE OF THE 1995 SPRING SEMESTER THE RESEARCH CENTER WILL BE SAYING GOODBYE TO THREE OF ITS STUDENT STAFF MEMBERS—MEREDITH WAGNER, TINA PISTOLAKIS, AND ALVIN GARRISON. MEREDITH AND TINA WILL BE RECEIVING THEIR UNDERGRADUATE DEGREES AND HAVE APPLIED FOR MANY POSITIONS RANGING FROM AMERICORPS TO FELLOWSHIPS WITH THE HALL OF RECORDS. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT THEY WILL CONTINUE TO PROSPER AND THAT A VERY LUCKY ORGANIZATION WILL UTILIZE THEIR UNIQUE TALENTS AND SKILLS. ALVIN WILL REMAIN IN THE AREA. HE HAS ACCEPTED THE APPOINTMENT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF MUSEUMS AND SPECIAL EVENTS FOR THE WESTSIDE HISTORICAL SOCIETY. HE WILL CONTINUE AT THE RESEARCH CENTER AS A VOLUNTEER, ASSISTING THE NEW DIRECTOR WITH ANY QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS HE/SHE MAY ENCOUNTER.

WE WILL MISS THE FAMILIAR FACES OF OUR YOUNG ASSISTANTS AND WISH THEM THE BEST WITH THEIR FUTURE ENDEAVORS.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

The Center is now in the position where we are able to actively recruit volunteers. We have recently redesigned the Center and by so doing uncovered many areas that need "special attention."

We need some assistance especially in the areas of bookkeeping, filing, clipping, preserving, and accessioning. We recently became a part of the Citizen Action Network [C.A.N.], whose mission is to generate citizen action through community service to address current volunteer needs on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore. We have had a favorable response but more help is still needed. Please help us preserve our rich heritage by volunteering a small portion of your time. For more information please call, 543-6312.

FOLKLORE STUDENTS

Students from Dr. Polly Stewart's folklore class have been spending time in the Center this semester organizing, accessioning, and arranging. All six students had projects dealing with the Folklore archives. They have been diligently putting in their Thirty hours and are very serious about completing their projects on time and correctly. Mark Taylor has been transcribing oral histories and will finish his internship creating an exhibit on old newspapers from the 18th, 19th, and 20th centuries. Anthony Corea and Steve Chipouras have been organizing and arranging index cards that pertain to superstitions, riddles and jokes, using a folkloric archiving system established by scholars. Karrie Visscher began her internship organizing the oral histories contained in the Folklore archives. She has completed that project and is now hard at work organizing the newspaper clippings file. Channing Merritt and Florrie Metter are involved with the computer aspects of archival work. They are analyzing our Q & A system for any errors or incomplete accessioning. We hope that we can have another talented folklore group the next time Dr. Stewart's class rolls around. The Center would like to thank all the students who put their time into the Center this semester and wish them luck in their future endeavors.

WISH LIST

help!!! The following items are certain pieces that would enable the Center to merge onto the information highway! any help would be <u>most</u> appreciated!

1} CD-Rom for IBM compatible computer.
2} Scanner for IBM compatible computer.
3} Fax machine
4} Laser or ink-jet printer

By having such technology at the Center, we would be able to tap into the new information that is available through these channels of communication. For example, the CD-Rom has a huge storage capacity and the ability to store thousands upon thousands of historical records that you would normally find on 15-20 rolls of microfilm!

The Center would welcome input on the acquisitions of these products. If you have one of these products and you are getting ready to update your system please think of us in your "decision of disposal"! We would appreciate all the feedback we can get on our wish list including items you think we should have yet have still not acquired.

WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE, AND WHY

As the time approaches for the Center to hire an Archival Director, we can look back on the past thirteen years and see the progress we have made for

genealogists, scholars, and students on the Shore. Many people know of the formation of the Center, yet some are still unclear about our mission and the guiding principle in which we operate our repository.

In 1982 Dr. G. Ray Thompson, Mrs. Sylvia Bradley, and Mr. Donald Whaley taught a history course designed to introduce students to a variety of history professions and avocations other than teaching, specifically museology, family history/genealogy, historical architecture, archival management and preservation, and the like. Our intent was that students would use the vast extant resources pertaining to the Delmarva peninsula at various stages. Family history would make use of the wills, inventories, and land records, which are available for almost all of the peninsula. In attempting to delve more deeply, however, students discovered that these resources were held in Annapolis, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Richmond, Eastville, Dover, Wilmington, and many points between. It seemed reasonable to obtain copies of such records, many of which were already available on microfilm, and gather them in one central place on the peninsula—here at Salisbury State. Ignorance is bliss, they say, and we proved it! Our simple little undertaking quickly mushroomed into an enormous task.

As we informally sounded out students and friends in the community about this idea, we discovered there was much enthusiasm for it. Local genealogists were excited by the idea; graduate students were most anxious for the experience in the profession; and undergraduate students were intrigued. We expanded our objectives to include the preservation and housing of historical materials created on Delmarva and a collection point of copies of other public records and personal papers held elsewhere in their original form, and for originals of private materials belonging to residents of Delmarva who wanted them to stay on Delmarva.

President Thomas Bellavance approved the concept, but imposed tow conditions: one , the name we had chosen—Delmarva Historical Archives Center—must also include the phrase "at Salisbury College"; and two, administratively we would come under the umbrella of the Salisbury State College Foundation. Both of these conditions still apply, with the exception that it is now University rather than College.

From 1982 until 1988 the growing number and volume of holdings were housed in Mrs. Bradley's and Dr. Thompson's faculty offices.

The first important collections were the surveyor papers of Ballard Miles and a collection of Delmarva books, journals, and scrapbooks from Jean Long of Marion, Maryland. Soon, however, the holdings were overflowing the office space and were demanding more professional cataloguing and care. In 1988, the Center moved into an independent office space in Holloway Hall, and a small budget of $5,000, including $2,000 to hire student help, was appropriated to cover basic operating expenses. Also, a graduate student was assigned as a Graduate Assistant. At the same time, Dr. Thompson and Mrs. Bradley approached Dr. Polly Stewart and suggested the possibility of a merger with the Folklore Archives. The result was the creation of the Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University. The old Delmarva Historical Archives Center logo was retained and the words "Research Center" simply added around

THE OUTSIDE EDGES IN OTHER WAYS, THE NEW NAME REFLECTED MORE SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES.

DR. PAUL DOWELL ESTABLISHED THE FOLKLORE ARCHIVES IN 1970 AS A REPOSITORY FOR STUDENTS COLLECTIONS. THE FIRST THREE YEARS PARTICULARLY WERE DEVOTED TO THE COLLECTION OF DELMARVA'S ORAL LITERATURE. IN 1973 THE FOLKLORE COURSE AND ARCHIVES CAME UNDER THE DIRECTION OF DR. POLLY STEWART, WHOSE TEACHING METHOD EMPHASIZED A DYNAMIC APPROACH TO FOLKLORE AS ADVOCATED BY NATIONALLY REGARDED FOLKLORIST BARRE TOILKEN. THIS APPROACH ENCOURAGES THE STUDENT TO THINK OF FOLKLORE NOT SIMPLY AS A COLLECTION OF STORIES, SEANCES, SONGS, AND OTHER SUCH ITEMS, BUT TO THINK IN TERMS OF THE GROUPS CUSTOMS, IDENTITY, AND THE FACTORS WHICH CONSTITUTE "FOLKLIFE". CONTEMPORARY FOLKLORISTICS IN AN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDY INVOLVING LITERATURE, HISTORY, SOCIOLOGY, ANTHROPOLOGY, PSYCHOLOGY, AND MATERIAL CULTURE.

THE COLLECTION ITSELF CONSISTS PRIMARILY OF STUDENTS' WORK, WHICH HAS IMPROVED IN SOPHISTICATION AND QUALITY. MANY TRADITIONAL STORIES AND LEGENDS ON DELMARVA HAVE BEEN COLLECTED WHICH GIVE INSIGHT INTO THE HISTORY OF THE REGION. ALSO, THE NEWER COLLECTIONS OFTEN CONCERN TRADITIONAL FOLKGROUPS SUCH AS THE WATERMEN AND FARMERS, OR STUDY THE APPLICATION OF TRADITIONAL CRAFTS FROM SHIPBUILDING TO QUILT MAKING. THERE ARE STUDIES OF FAMILY FOLKGROUPS, WHICH REVEL SOMETHING OF FAMILY LIFE ON DELMARVA IN A WAY WHICH "FLESHES OUT" THE TRADITIONAL GENEALOGY. THE COLLECTIONS INCLUDE TAPED ORAL INTERVIEWS (ORAL HISTORY), AND VIDEO TAPES WHICH PRESERVE THE FLAVOR AND PERSONALITY OF THE AREA. MANY COLLECTIONS INCLUDE ACTUAL ITEMS SUCH AS QUILTS, TOMBSTONE RUBBING, CRAFT MATERIALS AND TOOLS, OR PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE SAME WHICH ALLOW THE RESEARCHER TO VISUALIZE THE SUBJECT MORE EASILY.

IN JANUARY 1992 THE NEW RESEARCH CENTER FOR DELMARVA HISTORY AND CULTURE MOVED TO ITS PRESENT QUARTERS IN THE POWER PROFESSIONAL BUILDING, AND IN VOLUME, SCOPE, AND MISSION IT CONTINUES TO GROW. AT PRESENT, WE ARE ANTICIPATING THE ARRIVAL OF A FULL-TIME DIRECTOR. WE BELIEVE THAT WITH OUR FULL AND DIVERSE MISSION AND CONTINUED SUPPORT BY THE COMMUNITY, UNIVERSITY AND DELMARVA, THE CENTER WILL CONTINUE TO GROW AND PROSPER WELL INTO THE 21ST CENTURY. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE BEEN APART OF HE CENTER'S METAMORPHOSES.

NEW ACQUISITIONS

THE FOLLOWING IS A LISTING OF THE CENTER'S 1995 ACQUISITIONS. A MORE DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF EACH COLLECTION IS AVAILABLE AT THE CENTER. WE THANK EACH DONOR OF PAST AND PRESENT FOR WITHOUT THE CONTINUED DONATIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY, OUR CENTER WOULD BE INCOMPLETE.

95.01 EDWARD L. FOWLER COLLECTION
95.02 CASSIUS DASHIELL PAPERS
95.03 OLD SCHOOL BAPTIST PAPERS
95.04 LANDON FAMILY PAPERS
95.05 ORLANDO V. WOOTTEN COLLECTION
95.06 WILLIAM S. MOORE COLLECTION
95.07 S.J. DISHAROON COLLECTION
95.08 NANCY JOHNSON PAPERS
95.09 RESTRICTED
95.10 MARGARET ENGLE PAPERS
95.11 GORDON LAWSON PAPERS
95.12 GUNBY FAMILY PAPERS
95.13 DELMARVA BIBLE RECORDS
95.14 ADKINS/JONES/GARLAND PAPERS
95.15 PUBLIC RELATIONS PHOTOGRAPHIC COLLECTION
95.16 VIRGINIA MICROFILM RECORDS
95.17 DELAWARE ARCHEOLOGY PAPERS
95.18 CHESAPEAKE BAY MARITIME MUSEUM COLLECTION

ALL THE COLLECTIONS LISTED ABOVE ARE ONGOING AND FULLY ACCESSIBLE {UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED}. WE INVITE EVERYONE TO THE CENTER TO PERUSE THE VALUABLE

SEND YOUR PUBLISHED GENEALOGIES TO LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

{This article appeared in the Society of American Archivists newsletter for Winter of 1995. We thought it would interest those patrons who have completed or about to complete genealogies}.

The Library of Congress has one of the world's premier collections of U.S. and foreign genealogical publications. The library's genealogical collection began as early as 1815 with the purchase of Thomas Jefferson's library. Through the generations of international giving, these family history collections today contain more than 40,000 compiled family histories and over 100,000 U.S local histories. The library also collects local histories from around the world. Researchers doing foreign research will find strong collections for western Europe, especially the British Isles and Germany. Mail donations to either: Exchange and Gift Division, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540-4260, (202)707-9485; or to Local History and Genealogical Collection Development, Library of Congress, Washington, D.C. 20540-5554, (202) 707-5537. To request a postage free address label, contact on of the above sections of the Library. Donations to the Library of Congress will be acknowledged, and may be tax deductible.

Your financial support is needed to enable us to continue to provide student and community access and use of this facility. Won't you help by sending check today?

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____

STATE_____ZIP_____PHONE_____

___ Founding Patron $500
(includes lifetime membership in Friends of the center)

___ Benefactor $250

___ Friend of the center $25

___ Donor [up to $25]

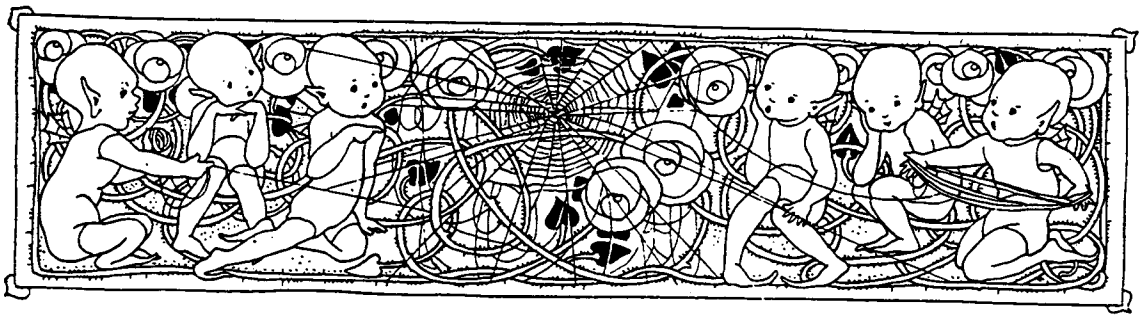
___ I am interested in volunteering to work in the Center. Please phone or write me.

Payment enclosed___ Bill me_____

Please make checks payable to Salisbury State Foundation, and write RCDHAC in the note space on the check

mail to:
Research Center for Delmarva History & Culture
Power Professional Building, Rm. 190
Salisbury State University
Salisbury, Md. 21801

phone: 410-543-6312
Fax: 410-543-6068



PUBLICATIONS

Wootten's Delmarva
Life on Delmarva as seen in the photographs of Orlando Wootten
$15.00

Historic Salisbury
exhibit catalog, paper, 18pp. 2.50

Delmarvans Go To War
exhibit catalog, paper, 18pp. 2.50

Wicomico County History
by George Corddry, hardback, 170 pp. 11.00

Grandmother's Cookery Book
traditional regional recipes from shores of the Nanticoke
14.00

Granny's Cures
folk medicine and household hints 8.00

These Roots Were Free
history of free blacks who lived in San Domingo since the early 1800s 5.00

Living Along the Nanticoke When Granny was a Girl
coloring book for young people, historical scenes of life in Nanticoke River area 4.00

WHAT ACTIVITIES WOULD INTEREST YOU FOR NEXT YEAR? WE WANT TO KNOW!

The Center has scheduled two "brown-bag" lunchtime seminars on "School Days on Delmarva" and "Shooting Sports for Money." We are also planning two in-house exhibits for the Fall. We would like to have some input from the community, university and other, on their ideas for workshops, seminars, and exhibits. We have provided a few ideas that you may check off and send back to us. If you have any ideas that you find particularly interesting and would like to see us sponsor, feel free to include them.

— Exhibit – "Death on Delmarva"
An exhibit highlighting various aspects of death on the Delmarva peninsula. A social and cultural analysis of how death has impacted the different generations of Delmarvans.

— Workshop – "Family History"
A day-long workshop that covers all aspects of researching family histories. We ran this program before with great success and would like to bring it back. For beginners to experts.

— Please give us your ideas

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---SEND TO: RCDHAC/SSU, Power Professional Bld., Room 190, Salisbury, MD 21801

information contained in these and our many other collections.

GUNBY FAMILY PAPERS FULLY PROCESSED

After many hours of hard work, the Gunby Family Papers [95.121], donated by Mr. George Hann, have been processed. Meredith Wagner labored to complete the collection before her graduation on May 20th and finally succeeded.

The collection has been arranged into five categories. The first deals with papers collected by George Hann about the family. The second group consists solely of genealogical data collected by Mr. Hann. Many valuable family histories are found in this series. The third part of this special collection contains printed materials, and in includes valuable documents from the turn of the century. Next, the collection has photographs dating back to the ninetieth century. The last category contains books. A valuable book of Col. John Gunby is included in this section.

Any history buff, genealogist, scholar, etc. should find this collection interesting and informative about life on Delmarva throughout the past two centuries. The Center would like to extend a special thanks to Mr. George Hann for the on-going donation of this collection and Meredith Wagner for processing it.

WHEN IS A QUILT NOT A QUILT?

The answer is, when it is: [a] a key to history; [b] a piece of art; [c] a valuable collectible; [d] an expression of women's personae; [e] a way of keeping warm; [f] all the above. And the correct answer is "all the above." This was clearly shown in the recent exhibit "Women's Quilts, Women's Voices" in the Gallery at SSU, April 7 through 21, jointly sponsored by the Research Center for DHAC, the History Department, Wicomico Historical Society, and the University Galleries Program. The exhibit, curated by Jeanne Whitney and Laura Tuennerman-Kaplan, and directed by Nancy Johnson of the history department, featured a collection of quilts made on Maryland's lower Eastern Shore. The oldest quilt dated to 1825, but also included were such "modern" quilts as those made for the Kidney Foundation in 1992.

Also featured during the exhibit were videos by Scorchy Tawes featuring a local quilting club of Mardela Springs, and the film "Hearts and Hands" about the significance of quilts in our past. Lectures included one by Dr. Gladys-Marie Fry of UM-College Park on the coded information stitched into quilts by black slaves, and another by Research Center Co-Director Sylvia Bradley on quilts as a Key to the Past. Quilts have been studied by serious students of folk art and material culture for the past thirty years, and have finally come to be seen as the important key not only to women's history but to the history of family life and to social history as well. They tell the story of the history of technology in this nation. The patterns and styles also tell the story of the terrible strains put on American families and social life by the great mobility of the American population beginning in the 1820s. As families split, some "moving West" to an unknown destination, women made "friendship quilts" and "Signature Quilts" to remember loved ones left behind. Quilts memorialized families membership and involvement in such things as Lodges, Political Party activities, and Social clubs. Quilts were made to remember deceased children; in an age when infant mortality was higher and expected, mother still grieved over lost children. Quilts were the "textbooks" for young women in an age

when the only acceptable "careers" were wife\ mother\ homemaker, and her "lessons" included heavy doses of needlework. And quilts also may have been one way in which women struck out from the "Cult of Domesticity" to carve out an identity for themselves in a man's world.

As a tool for discovering the cultural identity and history of this area quilts are especially valuable. For those who did not get to see the exhibit, the Research Center plans to put together a monograph on local quiltmaking sometime soon, and Dr. Jeanne Whitney plans to write a full-length book on the subject. Stay tuned for more about this fascinating topic.

FROM THE REGISTRAR'S DESK

Since the beginning of the new year the Center has been busy rearranging to provide a more user friendly place to conduct research for our patrons. We hope that these changes have enhanced everyone's experience at the Center. We have assisted 249 patrons and students from January to the end of April. We hope that we can provide research assistance for all our patrons in the future and we encourage all to come and see what we have to offer.

SSU LEGACY SOCIETY

Salisbury State University, under the auspices of the SSU Foundation has initiated a Legacy Society to properly acknowledge alumni and friends who have provided for the institution in their will or by some other current or deferred gift method. Qualifying gifts include a gift annuity or real estate , a bequest made through their estate , a life insurance policy, and pooled income fund, but are not limited to the above mentioned.

Membership in the Legacy Society is established by formally notifying the Executive Director of the SSU Foundation in writing of your intent to provide for the future of the institution and its programs. The Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture is one such program that benefits from the Legacy Society. A memo with your contribution can direct your support to the Center.

Society members are honored by invitation to social, cultural, and academic activities at SSU and will be acknowledged on a permanent plaque. To learn more about the Legacy Society please contact the Executive Director of the SSU Foundation at (410) 543-6175 or by writing to the SSU Foundation Inc., P.O. Box 2655, Salisbury, Maryland 21801.

ARCHIVAL DIRECTOR POSITION REMAINS OPEN AT RCDHAC

In January, the Center began its search for an entry level Archival Director. This person would be responsible for the supervision of the daily operations, administration of historical records and finances, creation of grant programs, etc. The Center is looking for individuals with advanced degrees in history and archival experience, including MARC-AMC, which is an advanced method of repository arrangement. The search will continue until the position is filled, hopefully by July 1995. We hope that all our Friends of the Center and SSU community will welcome this person and assist in making the Center a complete repository for our Delmarva heritage.

CLASSIFIEDS

Volunteers

Bookkeeper- Assist archivist in budget balancing, sending invoices, and bill processing. Organizational and analytical skills a must. Great for those who love and understand numbers. Any weekday shifts available.

Archives Assistant- Assist RCDHAC Staff in processing collections. Ideal for those with high organizational skills and ability to analyze and synthesize historical data. Any weekday shifts available.

Genealogical Assistant- Work with the Leslie Dryden Collection and create a guide to decipher his handwriting. LONG-TERM PROJECT. Excellent for those familiar with the Dryden Collection and understands the need for this type of guide. Any weekday shifts available.

Genealogical Assistant- create finding guides to published genealogy bulletins from Delmarva. Excellent opportunity for genealogist to explore past research completed by colleagues.

Archeology Assistant- Assist RCDHAC Staff in processing the newly acquired archeology, anthropology, and material culture materials. An understanding of archaeology not necessary, we will train. Any weekday shifts available.

Staff Assistant- Greet patrons and researchers, assist researchers in finding material and re-shelve collections after use, and responding to mail requests for research assistance. Any weekday shifts available.

Assistant Guide Manager- Assist the Staff Archivist in the creation of finding guides for the various holdings in the Center. Organization skills a big plus. LONG-TERM PROJECT. Any weekday shifts available.

Give & Take

This is an introduction to the "Give & Take" section of our classified. To assist genealogists we are beginning these classified as a way for people to communicate their research needs to one another. Feel free to send in your queries and responses to:

RCDHAC/SSU
PP 190
Salisbury, MD
21801
ATTN: Give &

Take

For any information or comments on our classified section, please contact 543-6312.